

The North- West Update

Northwest Cor- poration Update

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Northern Developments

Happy New Year

*The Northern Alberta Development Council
and the Staff of the Northern Development Branch
would like to wish you all a very happy new year.*

Northern development officer wins University of Calgary award

Audrey DeWit has been awarded the University of Calgary's new Faculty Association Recognition Award. The award is given to a community member who has supported the scholarly activities of the University of Calgary. DeWit was honoured because of her work, as a staff member of the NADC, facilitating development and delivery of a Bachelor of Social Work program applicable to northern Alberta.

NADC participation contributes to award-winning submission

A report supported by the NADC is a winner! The Northwest Corridor Development Corporation achieved national recognition in September 2000 when the organization was chosen as the winner of the 2000 Marketing Canada Award, "Research Activity," presented by the Economic Developers Association of Canada. The Corporation promotes trade along the northwest corridor and connections to the Asia - Pacific markets. Formed in 1998, the Corporation won the award for its marketing initiatives.

Check out our website's new look! www.gov.ab.ca/nadc

According to Webmaster Jack Kramer, the site has been completely revamped. "It's easier to browse, there's more information, and it's updated weekly."

North meets South over lunch

The Northern Alberta Development Council (NADC) hosted a reception with southern MLAs and key industry leaders of northern Alberta. Both Premier Ralph Klein and NADC Chair Guy Boutilier spoke at the November, 2000 luncheon, emphasizing the northern region's contribution to the province's economy and prosperity. Northern Alberta oil, gas, forestry and mining company executives, mingled with the elected officials, NADC members and staff. Council Vice-Chair, Gerald McIvor, notes that the reception gave the NADC "the opportunity to highlight the north's economic contribution, to talk about how we do business and facilitate projects that contribute to economic growth."

Northern Infrastructure News

The NADC has been working with a variety of stakeholders on various infrastructure initiatives for northern Alberta. Recent meetings, have addressed the following:

- **Rainbow Lake - Fort Nelson Road Connection:** The NADC heard a proposal to develop a road connection between Rainbow Lake, Alberta and Fort Nelson, British Columbia. The NADC supports this proposal and will meet with key British Columbia community-industry-provincial leaders to discuss the implementation of the road proposal.
- **Northern Alberta East-West Road Link:** The NADC has been working with key stakeholders interested in the development of an east-west road across northern Alberta. Over the past few months, representatives of the NADC met with various stakeholders, including the Municipal District of East Peace, The Regional Municipality of Wood Buffalo, the Municipal District of Opportunity, the Town of Peace River, and industry, to discuss this proposal.
- **Road Connection to LaLoche, Saskatchewan:** On October 24, 2000, a proposal was put forth to approximately fifty people to discuss a road connection between LaLoche, Saskatchewan, and the Fort McMurray area. Art Avery, an NADC member, said, "the meeting provided an excellent forum for the discussion of this proposal, with insightful comments from representatives from various Saskatchewan interests." Representatives of the Government of Saskatchewan noted that the road has been built to the Alberta/Saskatchewan border.

Northern Alberta infrastructure development will assist with the on-going implementation of the *Northwestern Canada Integrated Road Network Concept Plan* that was adopted by the western premiers, June, 1998.

Why tell students about the NADC?... Bursaries!

All northern Alberta students should be aware of NADC's three bursary programs. "These bursaries are an excellent way for the NADC to assist northern Alberta students with their post-secondary education," says Michael Procter, Chair of the Bursary Selection Committee and a member of the NADC. "We can help students both at the start of their education, as they are near completion, and as they prepare to enter the northern Alberta workforce."

Nearly 500 first and second year college and university students with a high financial need receive the **Northern Student Supplement** each year. It replaces \$500 to \$1500 of the loan with a grant. Students are required to fill out the application when they apply for a student loan.

The **NADC Bursary** is given to approximately 100 students who are within two years of graduating from a college or university program. It requires a commitment from students to work in northern Alberta in their field of study. The application deadline is May 31.

Through the **Bursary Partnerships Programs**, the NADC co-sponsors over 130 bursaries with northern Alberta communities and employers related to local employment priorities.

Tell students to contact the NADC or check out our website.

Did you Know.....

that **Computers for Schools** is a Canada-wide program that provides refurbished computers to Canadian schools and libraries?

To-date, over 235,000 computers have been provided to schools and libraries across Canada. Of those, 20,000 computer systems have been distributed in Alberta since 1993; 7,000 in the past year alone. Computers for Schools is looking for your used Pentium-class computers, peripherals (laser and inkjet printers) and multi-media components. Individuals and private-sector organizations qualify for an income tax receipt for each complete Pentium-class computer system donated to the Computers for Schools program.

For more information, please visit the website: <http://ednet.edc.gov.ab.ca/cfs>, or contact them at: Alberta Computers for Schools; 7th Floor, 11160 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, AB, T5K 0L2
Tel: (780)427-9002. For toll free access, dial 310-000.

Regional associations anticipate return of bursary recipients

"We are facing huge problems attracting people to work in given areas," says Mike Davenport, superintendent of schools and CEO of the Fort Vermilion School Division Committees. "We need nurses, audiologists, doctors, social workers, teachers and many more," he says. Davenport and representatives of the Silver Birch Child and Family Services Authority and the Northwestern Health Services Region decided that funding bursaries through the **Bursary Partnerships Program** might address some of the region's skilled labour shortage problems. "We've been doing this for one and a half years now," says Davenport. "Everyone thought it was a great idea."

Each of these three organizations, the biggest human resource consumer groups in the Mackenzie region, contributes \$10,000 per year. The funds, matched by NADC, provide financial support for over 30 students. "We have accepted almost everybody that applied," says Davenport. To ensure students at all levels of education are included, only one third of the bursaries are allocated to grade 12 students.

The group made great efforts to promote the bursary opportunity to students. "We went to the community and asked kids, education counselors and community members to spread the news," Davenport says.

Once the students finish their education, they are obliged to return to the bursary-sponsoring group and offer their services as an employee. "When a teacher comes back, we say, 'You have a job,'" explains Davenport. Better yet, he adds, "they don't have to pay back the bursary."

Here's How to

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Visit the Northern Network!

www.gov.ab.ca/nadc

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